



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

June 22, 2011

To: Senator Casperson and members of the
Senate Natural Resources, Environment
and Great Lakes Committee

Sierra Club Opposes SB 473 (Pavlov) – Elimination of Secondary Liner and Leachate Collection System

Dear Senator Casperson and members of the Senate Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes Committee,

We appreciate you taking time to consider our position on SB 473.

The Sierra Club urges you to vote NO on SB 473 (Pavlov), a bill that would remove the requirement that a landfill used in a research development demonstration project (RDDP) have a second liner and leachate system. A second liner and leachate system safeguards the environment in case the primary liner and leachate system are not functioning properly. The requirement for second liners has come out of direct experience with leaking landfills and is a critical measure to protect surrounding property owners and communities from harm. A second liner and leachate system also allows for monitoring how well the primary liner and leachate system are working. This is exceedingly important for landfills where decomposition of trash occurs through the addition of water and oxygen. Cleaning up environmental contamination is a more expensive proposition than preventing predictable pollution, and the universal requirement for second liners is an important requirement for protecting your citizens.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote NO on SB 473.

Sincerely,

Mike Berkowitz
Chapter Organizer
Michigan Sierra Club